

THIRD EDITION

# Progress in ALBERTA

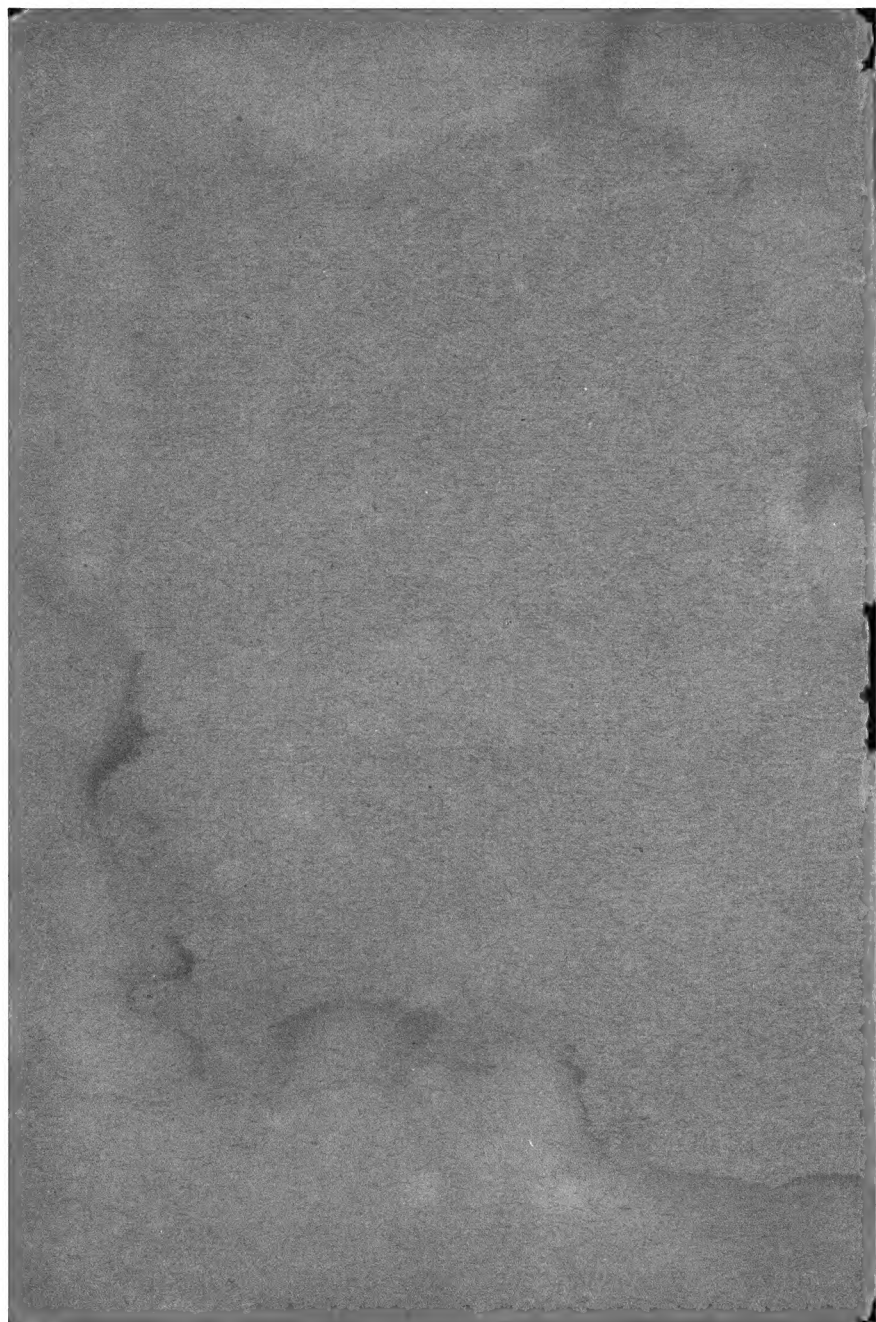
and

Some Comparisons with Australia

By

A. W. NOAKES

Price 6d



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## WE DESIRE TO THANK

Mr. N. B. James, M.L.A., Secretary, Social Credit Board, Legislative Building, Edmonton, Alberta, for booklets containing up-to-date information on the progress made in Alberta.

Mr. William Ager, Yamba, Clarence River, N.S.W., for helpful suggestions on the construction of this booklet and

Mr. L. B. S. Reid, for assistance in compiling and checking.

We are indebted and deeply grateful to them for their valuable assistance.

A. W. NOAKES, Director.

The Electoral Campaign

Room 14, 2nd Floor,

142 Adelaide Street, Brisbane.

12th March, 1945.

# Progress in Alberta and some comparisons with Australia

The object of this booklet is to supply **authentic, irrefutable information on progress made in the Province of Alberta since 1935, under a government elected as Social Crediters**, and to refute the oft repeated statement that Social Credit has failed in Alberta.

Let it be clearly understood at the outset that **Social Credit has definitely never failed in Alberta** for the simple reason that the Federal Government deliberately obstructed every measure introduced by the Alberta Government to put Social Credit principles into practice.

The substitute for Social Credit put into operation by the Aberhart Government is a decided improvement on the policy of the previous government. This has been unmistakably demonstrated at each election since. **The recent Election in August last gave the Social Crediters 51 out of 57 seats, rather a substantial majority in spite of the fact that Social Credit is reported to have failed in Alberta.**

To enable the reader to understand the progress made in Alberta since the election of the Aberhart Government it will be necessary to show the conditions existing prior to that election.

**Alberta is probably the richest Province within the British Commonwealth of Nations in natural resources.** There is an area of seventy million acres suitable for farming from a portion of which sufficient food stuffs could be produced to feed the population of the whole of Canada. There are 150,000 square miles of forests containing beautiful timber equal to anything in the world. There are the largest known reserves of natural

**interests of the international financiers at the expense of the people.**

Generally speaking the members of all political parties after an election conveniently forget about the promises made to the electors and proceed to look after their own personal interests and those of the financiers and monopolies. **Yet in spite of this they are re-elected term after term.**

Why did the Alberta Government not follow this procedure? For the simple reason that the people were organised, they knew what they wanted and how to get it **by exercising control over their elected representatives.** They demanded the results they wanted and insisted on getting them. Furthermore, the members of the government knew that they would be supported by the people **only if they carried out the policy on which they were elected.**

The Hon. W. Aberhart, B.A., M.L.A., the first Social Credit Premier, stated: **"We must solve the problem of want in a land of potential abundance. We must learn to use our own credit as the means of increasing purchasing power and effecting the distribution of the goods and services which we are capable of producing."**

That sums up very clearly and concisely the requirements of the people and we will now proceed to show how Mr. Aberhart endeavoured to carry out that policy, the manner in which he was obstructed at every turn by the Federal Government and the banks, and some of the results achieved.

## **THE PROVINCIAL DEBT**

Alberta was incorporated as a Province on 1st September, 1905. The Provincial debt commenced and rose from then to 1936 to 158,081,350 dollars, an increase of approximately 5,000,000 dollars per year.

In March, 1936, the Social Credit Government put the Province on a Pay-as-you-go plan. This involved drastic measures. It took courage, but it was done. **By 1943 the Provincial debt had been reduced to 140,794,191 dollars, an average annual reduction of 2,469,050 dollars, or a total of 17,287,159 dollars.**

Alberta is the only Province within the British Empire **where the Provincial debt and taxation have been reduced.**

In Australia the national debt increased from £1,242,003,696 in 1935, to £2,366,857,983 in 1944. Over the same period taxation increased from £95,216,000 to £324,981,000. **On the same proportion of increase the national debt will double itself by 1945. Taxation has already more than triplicated itself.** As the national debt increases so must taxation increase to enable the interest on the national debt to be paid.

In England the national debt rose from £650,000,000 in 1914 to £11,500,000,000 in 1940.

If the Social Credit Government of Alberta had done nothing else besides reducing its Provincial debt and taxation it would have more than justified its existence particularly during the period when the national debt of Australia and England had increased by such prodigious amounts.

### **ALBERTA SAVINGS CERTIFICATES**

In 1935 Alberta Government Savings Certificates outstanding were 9,414,000 dollars. They had to be paid, but the Treasury was empty. Faced with this emergency, the former government suspended payments of Certificates in 1935. **There was then no squeal from the press about repudiation. Redemption was resumed only after the Social Credit Government had reorganised the finances of the Province.**

Since 1936, an orderly redemption of Savings Certificates has been carried out at an average rate of nearly three-quarters of a million dollars per year—total redemption by the Social Credit Government to 31st March, 1944, was 5,863,656 dollars.

### **DEBT CHARGES**

**The curse of this debt system lies in the burden of interest.** In a number of instances, apart from Alberta, the interest payments have exceeded the original amount borrowed, yet the principal still remains to be paid in full and the interest charges continue.

The total interest paid by Alberta from 1908 to 1936 was nearly 98,000,000 dollars, yet the Provincial debt still remained at 158,081,350 dollars.

The average interest rate in 1935 was 4.89 per cent. Since then it has been reduced to 2.44 per cent.

The Government is making every effort to bring about a fair and equitable refunding of the entire Provincial debt. **When these efforts are completed Alberta's debt problem will be well on the way to a permanent solution.**

**The Social Credit Government is definitely pulling Alberta out of debt.**

Perhaps, Mr. Reader, you will now begin to realise why we Social Crediters are endeavouring to awaken the people to the advantages of a credit system over this pernicious debt system that is imposed upon us by international financiers.

You may also begin to realise why the press, which is also controlled by these international financiers will not publish the truth about the progress made in Alberta.

If you have any doubt about the press being controlled by international financiers we refer you to state-



ments made by Mr. Eric Butler in his article in the New Times of 16th February, as follows:—

"There should be little necessity to say much about the press and its control. The Jewish writer, Simon Wolf, writing back in 1888, said: The Press of Europe is mostly controlled by Jews; the Leading Editors are Jews.

"Moses Montifiori, before an assembly of Rabbis at Cracow in 1840, rebuked them as follows: "What are you drivelling about? As long as we have not got control of the press all our chatter is useless. You can do no good whatever with your Societies, loans, bankruptcies and that sort of thing. **As long as we cannot make use of the press in order to stultify and delude the world our efforts will be of no avail, and our domination will remain a will o'-the-wisp.**"

"John Swinton late editor of the "New York Times" at a banquet following the announcement of his retirement, replying to the toast "An Independent Press" said: **There is no such thing in America as an independent press.** You know it and I know it. There's not one of you who would **dare to write his honest opinions.** I am paid 150 dollars a week to keep my honest opinions out of the paper with which I am connected. The business of a journalist is **to destroy the truth, to lie outright, to pervert, to villify, to fawn at the feet of mammon, and to sell himself, his country and his race for his daily bread.** We are the tools and vassals of rich men behind the scenes. We are jumping jacks, they pull the strings and we dance. Our talents, our possibilities and our lives are the property of these men. **We are intellectual prostitutes.**"

This debt system and its direct opposite, Social Credit, should surely be worth a little investigation. We can supply the books.

## DEBT LEGISLATION

Debt legislation has been passed by the Alberta Legislature **to protect the homes and businesses of honest citizens.** Some of this legislature was disallowed by the Federal Government and some has been declared ultra vires. Nevertheless the following results were achieved: Homes and property were protected during the worst depression years; thousands of debts were equitably adjusted by agreement between debtor and creditor, 41,173 people received direct assistance to adjust their debts; 1,128 debtors were given free legal assistance in connection with foreclosure proceedings in Court; 1,001 soldiers received help under "The Soldiers Relief Act." In addition thousands of people have had their debts adjusted by using the free services of "The Debtors' Assistance Board" which was established in 1943 to advise and assist debtors with free legal advice.

"The Judicature Act, Amendment Act, 1944," provides protection to the farmer who cannot market his grain due to lack of elevator space.

"The Wartime Moratorium Act, 1944," extends the debt protection given to farmers in the armed services, to farmers who have a wife, husband, son or daughter in the armed services.

## PUBLIC WORKS WITHOUT DEBT

In 1936 the policy of letting out road contracts to private individuals was terminated. **Borrowing was discontinued** and a Pay-as-you-go policy was adopted.

To build highways modern machines were purchased and skilled men hired to run them. Highways were planned and built on the basis of a Province-wide programme.

**Since 1936 public works and road building have been carried on entirely without borrowing.** Road

building record: March 1936 to March 1943, Graded 751 miles—Grade reconditioned 374 miles, Gravelled 1,686 miles, Asphalt surface 715 miles, Seal coat 385 miles.

### **DISTRICT HIGHWAYS AND LOCAL ROADS**

The policy here is to render every assistance through grants to the Municipal and Improvement Districts of the Province. District engineers are employed to help in local engineering problems concerning roads. Here is the progress 1936-42: Newly opened roads 2,247 miles, graded 4,049, gravelled 837 miles.

### **AMOUNT OF ROAD GRANTS PAID TO MUNICIPAL DISTRICTS**

1941-42, 101,290.95 dollars; 1942-43, 182,051.25 dollars; 1943-44, 292,785.72 dollars; total 576,137.92 dollars. Amount of road grants available to Municipal Districts to date 1944-45, 392,700 dollars.

### **SEVEN YEARS OF BRIDGE BUILDING**

Steel and concrete 170, timber 1,885, total 2,055, repaired 1,509.

**Before the election of the Social Credit Government there were only 78 miles of hard surfaced roads in Alberta.** After three years under Social Credit administration this was increased to 565 miles **without any increase in debt.** At the same time a further 483 miles had been prepared for hard surfacing.

Before 1935 the Edmonton to Calgary road was gravelled at a cost of 2,358,030 dollars. This investment was gone leaving a debt of 1,164,447 dollars **on which the people had to pay perpetual interest.** By the end of 1937 this highway had been surfaced at an average cost

of 1,400 dollars per mile without adding to the Provincial debt.

In comparison, every new road laid down in Australia carries with it an interest burden which means that the principal can never be paid under the present system. It becomes a permanent interest bearing debt. In Alberta new roads do not leave a legacy of debt for harassed ratepayers to pay interest on in perpetuity.

Now, Mr. Reader, we would ask you to go over carefully the road construction policy of this Social Credit Government, note the increasing amounts granted each year to Municipal Districts and realise that all this has been accomplished without adding one cent to Provincial debt. Compare this with the bungling inefficiency of the previous government which sank the people deeper and deeper into debt without rendering any lasting service. Under a Social Credit Government you get efficiency without debt and that is why the Press and financial gangsters use every means in their power to prevent you from getting the truth.

You, Mr. Reader, may wonder why it became necessary for this debt legislation. The late Mr. Randolph Bedford, in his speech before the Queensland Parliament on 12th September, 1940, when dealing with the present banking system said: "There is no change in this impudent monopoly of a public utility. As I pointed out, in 1694, the prospectus of the Bank of England said: "The Bank shall have benefit of interest on all moneys it shall invent out of nothing." This is still the attitude, because in the United States Bankers' Magazine 230 years later, published August 26, 1924, the following appeared in a leader:—Capital must protect itself in every possible manner by combination and legislation. Debts must be collected, bonds and mortgages must be foreclosed as rapidly as possible. When, through a process of law, the common people lose their homes they will become more docile and more easily governed

through the influence of the strong arm of government, applied by a central power under control of leading financiers. This truth is well known among our principal men now engaged in forming an imperialism of capital to govern the world."

This, Mr. Reader, may explain why it was necessary to bring in legislation to protect the people, and why the Federal Government, to suit the debt mongers, disallowed such legislation.

### **MARKETING LEGISLATION**

The Alberta Marketing Act was passed in 1939. This provided for marketing control by the producers of natural products by means of plans prepared and controlled by the producers themselves.

The Alberta Poultry Producers' Marketing Board constituted in 1940, now operates for the Poultry Producers of the Province. Large cold storage and processing plants located at Edmonton and Calgary, large egg powder plant Edmonton, processing 1,200 cases of eggs daily, 66 egg poultry stations throughout the Province, and hatcheries at Lethbridge and Edmonton producing 1,000,000 chicks each year.

This organisation now handles the poultry products of approximately 40,000 poultry producers throughout the Province, returning to them the full value of their product after the payment of marketing expenses.

Since inception they have paid to producers 129,088,000 dollars in cash and 154,483,000 dollars in Participation Certificates (representing ownership in plants) over market prices.

### **PROVINCIAL MARKET BOARD**

The Social Credit Government in 1939 put into effect marketing Legislation whereby assistance might be given

to small industries by pooling purchases of materials and shipping products. Provision was also made enabling unorganised consumers to have access to supplies, virtually on a co-operative basis. Through this means the following have been accomplished.

(1) Many Alberta farmers have saved from 15 to 35 per cent in the purchase of replacement parts for tractors and farm machinery.

(2) Many farmers have obtained weed control solutions, hardware and labour saving devices, such as stook sweeps, through the Marketing Board's facilities, **virtually at cost.**

(3) Alberta enterprise has been encouraged through the manufacture of many hitherto imported articles, including tractor carburetters, manifold units, tank heaters, feed cookers, oat hullers, electric fences, stook sweeps, etc.

(4) **Alberta's industries have been encouraged and their development assisted:** (a) By the purchase and shipment of raw materials in bulk through the Board; (b) By extensive campaigns under Board auspices among consumers **urging the use of Alberta-made goods;** (c) By Board assistance in production of war supplies including blankets, flour, etc., for the Dominion and other Allied Governments.

**Alberta is already organised, through the Marketing Board, to effect in the post-war era an immediate wide expansion in Alberta's industries whereby many service men and war workers may be assimilated in peace-time employment.** Alberta's facilities for the establishment of new industries are already organised through the operations of the Marketing Board whose services and assistance will be of incalculable help to those who seek to develop individual enterprise.

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## ALBERTA'S NATURAL RESOURCES

### SOCIAL CREDIT GOVERNMENT POLICY

(1) No mineral bearing or timber lands are sold. They are leased only for development on terms which ensure the people of Alberta, as joint owners, of a fair return from successful ventures and protection from losses.

(2) Genuine private enterprise and initiative are encouraged, monopoly control is blocked.

(3) Private ownership of agricultural land, with security of tenure and protection against monopoly financial control dispossessing farmers.

(4) Land settlement policy under which a settler: (a) possesses the land under lease; (b) pays no rent or taxes for the first three years; (c) pays one-eighth of crop thereafter. No payment if year's average yield is less than five bushels to the acre. (d) Option to purchase outright at the original valuation at any time after ten years. This ensures the settler becoming properly established before investing all his capital in the land or incurring a heavy mortgage debt, and thus obtains the full benefit of the development and the improvements carried out by him.

### HANDICAPS INHERITED FROM THE PAST.

(1) Until September 30th, 1930, Alberta's natural resources were under Federal administration. During this time, and the period immediately after a considerable portion of the Province's natural resources were alienated by being sold or granted to private interests, also large areas had been leased to them for extensive periods on terms unequitable to the Province.

(2) These resources include coal and oil bearing lands and forest lands.

## OIL AND GAS.

The Government of Alberta has adopted oil development policies that have resulted in: Increased production, conservation, and prevention of monopoly control.

The annual production of oil has increased from 1,320,442 barrels in 1936 to 10,143,270 barrels in 1942.

The Petroleum and Natural Gas Conservation Board established July, 1938, greatly reduced the wastage of gas.

Alberta is now producing 97 per cent of Canada's oil and 70 per cent of Canada's gas.

In 1934 Alberta's oil fields were only producing at little over 1½ million barrels.

You will note, Mr. Reader, the great increase in the production of oil under the Social Credit Government and the prevention of monopoly control. Compare this with the failure of our monopoly controlled Government in Australia to produce sufficient motor fuel for our requirements from the abundance of raw material known to exist in this country. For particulars of raw material see our booklet "The Frustration of Production of Motor Fuel in Australia.

The foregoing is just a brief outline of the progress made in some of the principal national activities of the Province. An equal, if not greater, progress has been made in Agriculture, live stock, forestry, labour conditions, social services and the general health, prosperity, economic security, freedom and well-being of the people.

This was made possible by the establishment of Treasury Branches. We quote the following extracts from the speech by the Hon. Solon E. Low, Provincial Treasurer, when introducing the Bill in 1938, published in "The Case for Alberta" by W. H. Hand, for the Douglas Social Credit Association of New South Wales, now out of print.



"Alberta is the richest Province per capita in this richly-endowed country of ours. Yet they have been forced to submit to poverty, restricted production, low prices for their products, high prices for their purchases and the oppression of an intolerable debt structure.

"There is no PHYSICAL handicap to the enormous resources of the Province being exploited. We can grow the food, build the houses, construct the roads and manufacture many of the goods now imported into the Province.

"All that stands between the people of Alberta and economic democracy, with the security and freedom this would give them, is an outworn, faulty, and vicious financial system. In Alberta, as in every other Province of Canada, the banks alone are to blame for the present state of affairs. The banks are responsible because they and only they are the arbiters and administrators of our financial arrangements.

"That a people should be kept in poverty, in anxiety and economic bondage at the will of a group of commercial institutions is monstrous.

It is a denial of democracy, and it is a denial of every decent principle of Christian ethics. It is this state of affairs which is rushing the nations of the world headlong towards war. It is this situation which has brought democracies to their knees and which is threatening the world with bloodshed, revolution and chaos.

"On the one hand abundant resources which could yield us a secure people, a happy people, and a progressive people. On the other hand, these very people kept in bondage—toiling and producing to have their production filched away from them in payment of debts imposed upon them by a vicious system; or else taken from them by a price system which ensures that the fruits of production shall never be enjoyed by the people. Ground down by debt, poverty, insecurity, restriction

and economic regimentation, is it any wonder that week by week we have evidence that the limit of endurance is being reached—evidence such as the raising of the secession issue in Saskatchewan, in Manitoba and in the Maritimes?

"I want to bring the serious nature of the situation before the members, because, Mr. Speaker, there is no more dangerous man in the world to-day than one who refuses to face the stark realities of the dangers and the anti-social factors which threaten the structure of civilization.

"I am anxious, before I deal with the provisions of the Bill before the House, that there should be a general recognition here, as there is outside the House, of the terrible—yes, Mr. Speaker, I repeat TERRIBLE—urgency of definite constructive action being taken to bring about the economic reforms demanded by the situation.

... **"From the outset this Government has been determined to carry out its mandate. That determination has already been shown—and it remains unweakened.**

"Realising that the existing state of affairs was essentially the responsibility of the banks, as the sole administrators of the financial system which yields us poverty, debt tyranny, restriction and economic degeneration, this Legislature took the Democratic course of instructing those institutions, in the name of the people, to restore to the people their civil and property rights. The Credit Regulation Act provided that the banks should forthwith proceed to administer the financial system to **yield the people of the Province the results which they had the right to demand from the use of their own property—the collective resources of Alberta.** That legislation was designed to establish primary civil right of the people of Alberta to determine the policy—that is, the specification of the results—which should

govern their social life within the Province, and without interfering with the same right of the people of any other Province. **That legislation gave the people effective property rights—the right to use their property and resources, as, collectively and individually, they desired.**

“The Credit Regulation Act did not interfere with administrative matters coming under the jurisdiction of the Federal Government. It did not tell the banks HOW to operate their business. **It did not interfere with banks and banking as such. It merely prohibited the banks from imposing upon our people unnecessary hardship, and restricting the economic life of the Province.** We even went to the length of telling the banks that while action had been taken in obedience to our people’s demands for economic reform, and while we had no desire to interfere with how the banks ordered their affairs, to meet the people’s wishes, we would gladly undertake to furnish them with persons competent to show them how it could be done.

“Mr. Speaker, the House knows what happened. We thought that we had only the banks to deal with—but we were to be disillusioned. The Federal Government—a Government pledged to join battle with the **Money Power on behalf of the people—a Government pledged to monetary reform—came to the aid of the banks.** Without giving a moment’s thought to the will of the people of Alberta, without consulting the representatives of the people of Canada, this body of men sat around a table and disallowed that Act of this Legislature. **The Courts were swept aside as the Enactment of this Legislature was nullified. Fascism reared its head in Canada.**

“The subsequent actions of the banks and their affiliated institutions were but the natural sequel to this open denial of the democratic rights of our people. That was a phase during which feelings ran high, and bitter-

ness was rampant. It is a phase which I hope is passed, never to return.

"Now, I want to state, as it has been stated repeatedly, that faced with this situation, **the Government was determined to press forward on strictly constitutional lines. We are convinced that our objective is the objective of every sane person in our country. We know that it is the objective desired by our people.** We have thrown up the issues involved so that to-day there is no misunderstanding about them. And finally we have proved not only who is the enemy of the people, but that **this enemy is determined to resist by every means within its power any move to give the people economic security and freedom.** It is our conviction that while we must press forward, it is the desire of the people that we continue to do so.

"Mr. Speaker, I appeal to every Member and particularly to my Honourable friends on the other side of the House, to face up to the realities of the circumstances in which the measure we are to consider is being submitted to them. In these days we hear much about unity. Those who use this word as glibly never tell us "Unity for what". The urgent need to-day is unity—but unity for the common objective desired by all, security and freedom for every citizen—an objective entirely possible of achievement with the vast resources at our disposal. And now I will turn to the Bill before the House.

"After demonstrating that every action to secure for the people of the Province the economic reforms they desired, would be blocked from the top, and after repeated threats from the banks to withdraw essential services from various points in the Province, the Government, in obedience to a wide demand, prepared plans to give the people facilities for deriving increased benefits for themselves through co-operation. The Bill provides for these plans, which are actually in operation under Order in Council, to be developed. The intention is to

open branches throughout the Province. These will provide the people in those districts with facilities for depositing their money in an institution under their effective control. To serve the districts which lie between these points where Treasury Branches are established, a system of Agencies will be developed. These Agencies will be operated in conjunction with the Treasury Branches and will extend the facilities of the latter to all main points in the Province. In this way will these facilities be made available to every part of the Province by a network of branches and agencies. To date nine Branches have been opened. Gradually other Branches will be established and already the agency system is being developed.

**"I wish to make it clear that these Treasury Branches are not banks and they are not engaged in banking business—which is essentially the business of manufacturing money, monetizing credit and lending.**

"At once the question arises—Why is the Government not going into the banking business? Why did not the Government accept the offer of the Federal Minister of Finance and apply for a bank charter? The answer is quite simple. Nothing would delight the eastern financial interests more than that the Province should attempt to operate a banking business in competition with the banks and in face of their effective control of the credit structure. **Until the banks concede the people of the Province the right to determine credit policy within their provincial boundaries, all talk of economic democracy is idle.** And any attempt by the Province to organise a banking structure in competition with the established banks, with their powerful ramifications, would merely leave the Provincial organisation at the mercy of the banks. Personally we have no doubt whatever that Mr. Dunning was put up to making the generous offer of a bank charter to Alberta. However, we have not rejected his offer—as yet. It is quite pos-

sible that if the measures being adopted at the present time do not result in a more reasonable attitude on the part of the banks, we shall accept the offer of a provincial charter—provided we can obtain it under proper conditions.

“Persons may deposit money in Treasury Branches either on current account or on term savings accounts. In the case of the latter, interest is allowed.

“Deposits are received at Treasury Branches under agreement between the depositor and the Provincial Treasurer. These agreements provide for the conditions under which deposits are made and bind the Government to meet all claims on deposits in accordance with the terms of such agreements.

“Now I come to an important feature of the Interim Programme as it is operating. **I have already pointed out that the condition of poverty amidst potential abundance is due to the financial system—specifically to the artificial restriction of money. This is widely recognised to-day and cannot be seriously disputed.** However, the exchange of goods and services can be effected without money if the people have at their disposal an efficient system of bookkeeping. The Province-wide Treasury Branch structure will provide facilities for introducing such a bookkeeping system—and not even a substitute for money is required to operate this.

“A person having an account with the Treasury may have acquired a credit by depositing money or by rendering a service to the Government or by some such means. This credit represents the price value of goods or services. The person may acquire goods or services from some other person also with a Treasury account. Instead of paying for those with money, all he needs do is to authorise his bookkeeper, the Provincial Treasurer, to transfer his credit to the person from whom he obtained the goods or services. And that person may do likewise.

"It will be obvious to Members that by such a system the use of money can be greatly economised, without introducing even a substitute. And that is a system of accounting the exchange of goods and services which is embodied in the Interim Programme. The means by which depositors authorise the transfer of figures, representing the price values of goods and services, from their accounts to other accounts is by means of orders known as Non-Negotiable Transfer Vouchers. These vouchers are not negotiable. They must be presented to the Treasury Branch by a depositor in whose favour they are drawn by another depositor. These vouchers are not money, nor are they a claim on money.

"This system of bookkeeping can yield material benefits to those using it only to the extent that co-operation can be induced. And such co-operation must be mobilised to gain certain definite results.

"The urgent need in this Province is the development of our natural resources for the benefit of the people. If production can be increased, as it can, it means an increased pay-roll. And if that increased pay-roll can be directed towards securing further production —still greater purchasing power will result and so on.

"Now the first step in increasing our Provincial production is to secure a demand for Alberta-made goods. While much can be done by propaganda, actually, a strong inducement for people to insist on Alberta-made goods when shopping must prove the more effective method. To this end the Interim Programme provides for bonusing consumers in a manner which will stimulate a growing demand for Alberta-made goods.

"Merchants who are willing to co-operate under the scheme, enter into an agreement regarding the use of the bookkeeping system operated by means of Non-Negotiable Transfer Vouchers. Any depositor with a Treasury Branch account, obtaining goods from these stores by using transfer vouchers, obtains a bonus on

the amount of such goods providing that in any month a definite proportion of all such goods are Alberta-made. At present the bonus is 3 per cent., and the proportion of Alberta goods to be obtained in any month is one-third the price values of the total obtained by the use of vouchers. If less than one-third of such goods are Alberta-made, then the bonus is allowed on only three times the total price value of Alberta-made goods for the month.

"This 3 per cent., of course, is a credit in terms of the price value of the goods and services—but full provision will be made for it on the books of the Treasury in terms of money. It is the intention to maintain the liabilities of the Treasury Branches in a liquid form to meet any claims which can possibly be made under any agreement.

"At this point, let me digress to make certain observations for the purpose of removing possible misunderstanding. There is nothing fundamental unorthodox about this Interim Programme. It is not the application of the financial proposals of social credit—though it embodies certain principles associated with those proposals and consistently advocated by the Government. **In the first place the consumers' bonus is a very modest start of the principle of the dividend. The people will not have their taxation increased to provide this purchasing power.** In the second place, the consumers' bonus will have the effect of reducing the cost of living. Therefore, the principles of dividends and a lower cost of living are embodied in this proposition—but it is only a very modest start. When we have demonstrated the effect that even such a small adjustment can have, we believe that many of the difficulties will be removed to extending the application of these principles to a scientific adjustment of the system, yielding substantially greater benefits.

"To revert to the operation of the 3 per cent consumers' bonus—it will be realised that this being bound



up with the amount of Alberta-made goods obtained—the natural desire on the part of all using the voucher system will be to think in terms of Alberta-made goods. This will lead to a steadily increasing demand for Alberta-made goods, which will be transmitted from customers to the wholesale houses and manufacturers by retail merchants. As this demand grows, so the production of Alberta-made goods will increase. With a steadily expanding market, new manufacturers will be encouraged to start up. This will mean more employment and increased payrolls. This increased purchasing power will be directed into channels which will increase still further the demand for Alberta goods. The effect will be cumulative.

The Government will put into operation machinery for encouraging and fostering this development. However, the plans for this are not yet mature. They will be placed before the House when we meet here again.

**“Finally, let me emphasize that throughout, the scheme is entirely voluntarily on all parties. There is no compulsion introduced. This is the only sound basis for developing any economic proposition and is a principle fundamental to the reforms for which this Government stands.**

**“Mr. Speaker, I have endeavoured to cover a great deal of ground in this introduction to the Bill before the House. I have generalised because it is important that Members should have the picture as a whole before them when discussing the measure. The details of the machinery of the Programme are before all Members—the entire proposition is a straightforward business-like scheme, based on sound economic principles. At this time, as never before, our country needs a lead in the economic sphere. National unity is being threatened by disintegrating forces which are entirely the result of a crumbling economic structure. We must not allow this tragedy to befall our land. As yet the words “What**

**Alberta Makes, Makes Alberta"** are a promise. It is in our power to make them a reality."

**The Treasury Branches thus established provide the people with the means of progressively gaining control of their credit and, by competing with the financial institutions, breaking the monopoly control these have exercised, thereby making them relax credit restrictions and reduce interest rates.**

On 31st December, 1943, there were 43 Branches and Sub-Branchees with 199 Agencies. These Branches provide the following services:—Deposits and withdrawals (savings and current accounts), loans, transmission of funds (drafts and money orders), collection services, travellers' cheques, safety deposit boxes, cashing of grain and produce tickets, government insurance and many other services.

**The Treasury Branch has stimulated the development of Alberta's industries, reduced the cost to the people of financial services, made the people independent of the existing financial monopoly, prepared the ground for economic reform and brought many government services to rural areas.**

In less than six years the Treasury Branches have grown to substantial proportions, total deposits amounted to 11,925,767 dollars, total savings 2,618,217 dollars, total turnover 176,055,638 dollars.

**A criticism levelled against the Treasury Branches is that they have cost more than the revenue they have earned. This is a false view.**

**If the Treasury Branches earned big profits, it could be only at the expense of those using these services, moreover, the public obtained very substantial benefits from the reduced interest rates, easier credit conditions, increased pay-rolls, the expansion of sales of Alberta-made goods and other indirect advantages accruing from**

the Treasury Branches. The cost of operating this public service has been more than offset by the direct and indirect benefits received by taxpayers.

As the people conduct an increasing volume of their business through the Treasury Branches, the assets which will be built up will be used to finance home building, expansion of Alberta industries, municipal requirements, trading activities, expansion of co-operation, live stock and other agricultural and marketing projects and any other sound and credit-worthy undertakings.

Though subsidised from general revenue during the initial period, the Treasury Branches are rapidly reaching the point where their earnings will balance their cost of operation. Meantime the services they are giving to the public are being steadily expanded.

## A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF ALBERTA

Alberta was incorporated as a Province on 1st September, 1905; area 255,285 square miles (Queensland 670,500 square miles), 6,485 square miles of which are lakes, and 159,000 square miles of forests, 30,000,000 acres non-arable, 70,000,000 acres arable, 20,000,000 acres of which are occupied cultivated farm lands, 30,000,000 acres are unoccupied. Large areas, particularly in the south, require irrigation before successful farming could be expected.

Alberta's population was 796,169 at the 1941 census, (Queensland 1,029,613 at 31st December, 1940). **There were 99,732 farm homes and the farm population totalled 489,583.** The general population comprises principally descendents of British and United States stock, with considerable percentages of descendents from the Germanic, Latin and Slavic regions of Europe. Virtually all the Christian Churches and the Jewish Faith are represented and there is a smattering of Oriental religions as well.

Until quite recently, Alberta has been principally an agricultural Province, but within the past few years there has been a remarkable growth in industrial development, largely due to the increase of plants for producing and processing the products of the farm, the forest, the mine and other natural resources, including oil, of which Alberta is the second largest producer in the British Commonwealth. Alberta, in fact, has the largest known reserves of natural gas and bituminous oil deposits in the world. There lies within the Province almost inestimable deposits of coal, and tremendous reserves of water power still undeveloped.

In 1943 Alberta's packing plant production totalled 67,200,000 dollars. Butter production totalled 12,300,000 dollars, live stock and poultry about 162,687,000 dollars, grain crops 169,221,000 dollars, miscellaneous vegetable produce 14,000,000 dollars, minerals, including coal, oil, natural gas, clays, lime, cement, etc., 46,000,000 dollars, and the fur and fishing trade 7,370,000 dollars.

Alberta's climate, moderated by the warm chinook winds from the Pacific Ocean, is mild. Rainfall is comparatively light in the south-eastern, southern and northern areas, but plentiful in the central regions. Except in the south-eastern section temperatures seldom rise above 90 degrees in summer. Winter temperatures ranging from 40 degrees above to 30 degrees below zero are not intolerable to man or beast because of the dryness of the atmosphere, and in many sections of the Province live stock thrives upon the open range throughout the winter.

## CONCLUSION

Alberta is probably the richest Province within the British Empire in natural resources. Yet, in spite of this, the people were living in abject poverty prior to the election of the Social Credit Government.

It is quite clear from the speech by the Hon. Solon E. Low that the **Social Credit Government** met with every obstruction, not only from the bankers, but also from the **Federal Government**, to its efforts to relieve the people from the tyranny and poverty imposed upon them by powerful financial gangsters and monopolies, who wilfully and deliberately brought about these appalling conditions to suit their own interests.

It is also quite clear that the **Social Credit Government** courageously and tenaciously stuck to the policy on which it was elected, in spite of fierce, premeditated opposition from the real enemies of the common people.

Alberta had no Provincial bank and was denied the right to determine credit policy within the Province. Yet, in spite of this, and vicious opposition from the bankers and the Federal Government, it **devised the means whereby it could, and did, develop the country, reduce, instead of increase, the Provincial debt and taxation, provide the people with a much higher standard of living and make them independent of the financial monopoly, a record that cannot be equalled, as far we can ascertain, in any other part of the world.**

In Australia the Federal Government has its own national bank, the Commonwealth Bank of Australia, and under our Constitution it has the sole right to control the creation, issue and cancellation of all money.

Through this bank money can be made available to the Government without in any way increasing the national debt of the country, or taxation on the people. Furthermore, the Hon. John Curtin, present Prime Minister, is well aware of this for in 1939, he is reported to have said:—"Everything in war must be paid for, not by reducing wage standards, but by the use of the national credit. Because of a Labour Government in the Federal Parliament there is a Commonwealth Bank. It was created as a means for releasing national credit.

But because Labour lost office the National Bank had been transformed by our opponents into a mere puppet of the private banks.

"As a requisite to national defence, the Commonwealth Bank must have restored to it its original charter. When we are in power, we shall proceed to redeem the National Bank from its slavery.

"The cost of war can be met without piling up huge debts, and without interest payments sucking our national 'life-blood'. The Commonwealth Bank must, with a Labour Government, work out a freer and fuller life for our people."

**Brave words, but Mr. Curtin has been in office for some time and the national debt and taxation, with interest payments sucking our national life-blood and pauperising our people, are becoming greater and greater.**

Compare the action of the Social Credit Government in Alberta, fighting for the rights of the people against every obstacle placed in its way by the banks and monopolies with that of our Australian Federal Government, sidetracking its election promises and using every subterfuge to permit the same bankers and monopolies to retain their domination over our people. The Social Credit Government serves the interests of the people. The Australian Government serves the interests of the enemies of the people.

Now, Mr. Reader, please don't cast all the blame on your Government. Have you at any time given any instructions to your elected representative what to do? Remember he is your servant and it is definitely your responsibility, not only to tell him what you want him to do, but to see that he does it, or put him out. That is what they do in Alberta. That is why they are getting out of debt. That is why they are breaking away from the stranglehold of the monopolies and financial gang-

**sters and becoming free men.** They attend to their own business, which is the government of their own country in the way they want it to be governed. We have shown you how they did it. If you want further information on the correct procedure send in for a copy of our six-penny booklet "How to get Real Democracy".

We would ask you, Mr. Reader, to take into consideration the conditions that existed in Alberta prior to the election of a **Social Credit Government**, the obstructions that were raised by the bankers and monopolies against the establishment of a Social Credit policy, the fact that the Government could only put into practice a poor substitute for the Social Credit policy, the wonderful progress made in spite of all obstacles, and then ask yourself why the bankers and monopolies still keep up the cry that **Social Credit** has failed in Alberta, and why their controlled press will not publish the truth about Alberta.

Don't be fooled any longer—**Social Credit** is the only way out of the rotten debt system, usury, imposed upon you by these international financiers through their system of banking and monopolies, and they know it. That is why they oppose it so strenuously, that is why they lie about it, and that is why their controlled press ignores and misrepresents the truth about Alberta.

The Social Credit Government of Alberta has definitely exposed the unscrupulous tactics of these financial gangsters and monopolies, who wilfully and deliberately enslave you, and demonstrated clearly and conclusively how to escape from their clutches.

We have endeavoured to make this quite clear to you, Mr. Reader. What they have done in Alberta you can do in Australia if you will only carry out the correct procedure.

We have done our part. We have shown you that procedure. **There is no easy way. It is a man's job and the job of every man.** You owe it to yourself and your children to clean up these financial gangsters and monopolies now and for all time. **Get busy right away, before it is too late, and help to make Australia fit for men to live in as free men, and not slaves to these userers which you are to-day and have been all your life.**

If you want further information call or write. We are here to serve you in the interests of Australia and its people.



